

MMOJ Liturgy for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jan. 27, 2024
 Presiders: Bridget Mary Meehan, Mary Theresa Streck, Homilist: Juanita Cordero,
 Readers: Joan Pesce and Jerry Bires, Prayer Leaders: Pat and Bob Ferkenhoff, IT:
 Cheryl Brandi



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93473708926?pwd=VHFKZGJ5N3ljbzZtVU1qQVRZY1lodz09>

Meeting ID: 934 7370 8926

Passcode: 552967

Theme: Called to be a Prophet

Welcome and Gathering: Mary Theresa
 Welcome to Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community where everyone is invited to celebrate this sacred meal in a circle of love. Please have bread and wine/ juice nearby as we pray our Eucharistic prayer together.

Opening Song: You have Anointed me – by the Dameans

<https://youtu.be/vUMdXhZB08U>

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Community Transformation Rite: Bridget Mary

Called to see our missed opportunities to speak truth to power and stand on the margins with the oppressed, we pray:

All: Transform us, Holy One

Called to believe in God's boundless love within us, we open ourselves to the "love of God that has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5:5), we pray:

All: Transform us, Holy One

Called to be prophets of justice we open ourselves to the the cries of the impoverished longing for equity and justice, we pray:

All: Transform us, Holy One

Gloria: Linda Lee Miller

https://youtu.be/dgn_8q1UWwk?si=NHFFcs_nH_0_vp0D

Opening Prayer: Mary Theresa

Let us pray: God of Compassion, may we speak your words of mercy and justice through the "authority" of your prophets. Let our actions to console, to lift up, to heal, to drive out the demons and unclean spirits of fear, greed and arrogance among us, reveal your compassion and forgiveness in our midst. Amen

Liturgy of the Word

Joan P. First Reading: Dt 18:15-20

Moses spoke to all the people, saying:

"A prophet like me will your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen.

This is exactly what you requested of your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said,

'Let us not again hear the voice of our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.'

And the Holy One said to me, 'This was well said.

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him.

Whomever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make them answer for it.

But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die."

These are the inspired words of our ancient ancestors and we affirm them with, Amen.

Jerry B. Second Reading: From The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage by Joan Chittister

Our world waits for you and me, for spiritual people everywhere to refuse to be pawns in the destruction of a global world for the sake of national self-centeredness. The prophet is the person who says no to everything that is not of God.

No to the abuse of women.
 No to the rejection of the stranger.
 No to crimes against immigrants.
 No to the rape of the trees.
 No to the pollution of the skies.
 No to the poisoning of the oceans.
 And while saying no, the prophet also says YES.
 Yes to equal rights for all.
 Yes to alleviating suffering.
 Yes to embracing the different.
 Yes to who God made you.
 Yes to life.

It is not an easy spiritual path. It can be tiring, wearying, soul-saddening and at times electrifying. Prophetic spirituality calls us to walk in the wake of the biblical prophets of ancient Israel, to hear the word of God for the world and repeat it, shout it, model it until the world comes awake. It is to demand it until the hungry are fed and the sick are cared for and the violent are sent away empty of their power to destroy.

These are the treasured word of Sister Joan Chittister and the Community says Amen

Celtic Alleluia by Christopher Walker

<https://youtu.be/o1rc7ojQtJU>

Mary Theresa: Gospel: A reading from the Gospel of Mark

Mk: 1:1-28

Then they came to Capernaum,
 and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught.
 The people were astonished at his teaching,
 for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.
 In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit;
 he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
 Have you come to destroy us?
 I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"
 Jesus rebuked him and said,
 "Quiet! Come out of him!"
 The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him.

All were amazed and asked one another,
 "What is this?
 A new teaching with authority.
 He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."
 His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

These are the inspired words of the Gospel writer known as Mark and the community affirms them by saying AMEN.

Homily Starter: (Juanita)
 Shared Homily: Community

Joan P. and All:: Statement of Faith

We believe in the Holy One, a divine mystery
 beyond all definition and rational understanding,
 the heart of all that has ever existed,
 that exists now, or that ever will exist.

We believe in Jesus, messenger of the Divine Word,
 bringer of healing, heart of Divine compassion,
 bright star in the firmament of the Holy One's
 prophets, mystics, and saints.

We believe that We are called to follow Jesus
 as a vehicle of divine love,
 a source of wisdom and truth,
 and an instrument of peace in the world.

We believe in the Spirit of the Holy One,
 the life that is our innermost life,
 the breath moving in our being,
 the depth living in each of us.

We believe that the Divine kin-dom is here and now,
 stretched out all around us for those
 with eyes to see it, hearts to receive it,
 and hands to make it happen.

Jerry B: Prayers of the Community:

As we prepare for this sacred meal we are aware of our call to serve, and just as Jesus is anointed, so is each of us. We bring to this table our prayers for the community.

For a deeper realization of the Christ Presence working through us each day, we pray.
and

ALL: May it be so.

For peace in the Ukraine and Middle East, we pray:

ALL: May it be so.

For good health, energy and vitality for ourselves and all for whom, we pray

ALL: May it be so.

For healing for the sick and comfort for the grieving, we pray

ALL: May it be so.

For joy for our loved ones who have passed into God's eternal embrace, we pray.

ALL: May it be so.

Joan Meehan shares Prayer Intentions in MMOJ book

... and for what else do we pray?

(We ask you now to please share your intentions.)

Closing:

Jerry B: We give thanks for all whom we held in the circle of grace and will continue to pray for and serve. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of The Gifts

(All hold bread plate)

Bridget Mary: Blessed are you, God of all Life. Through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you fruit of the earth, and work of human hands. It will become for us the bread of life.

ALL: Blessed by God forever.

(All hold cup)

Mary Theresa: Blessed are you, God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed by God forever.

PREFACE

Bob F: God dwells in us.

Pat F and ALL: And in all people everywhere.

Bob F: Lift up your hearts.

Pat and ALL: We lift them up in the joy of Divine Presence within us.

Bob F: Affirm the power of love and prophetic witness

Pat F and ALL: Alleluia

Bob F: Blessed are you, Holy One, source of all creation. Through your goodness you made this world and called us to be Your co-creators. We give thanks for the diversity and beauty of life around us and within us.

Pat F: We open our awareness to the goodness of all of creation and we remember our responsibility to serve. You invite us to build the earth into a community of love rooted in justice. You placed confidence in us, for you made us and you know that we are good.

Bob F: In joy and in thanksgiving we join with all the faithful prophets who have gone before us and we sing:

Holy Holy Holy by Christopher Grundy

https://youtu.be/sgkWXOSGmOQ?si=LazC0_0imErit5iy

Pat F: We thank you for Jesus, simple servant, lifting up the lowly, revealing you as God-With-Us, and revealing us as one with you and all of creation.

Bob F: He lived among us to show us who we are and challenged us to know you. He taught us the strength of compassionate love.

Please extend your hands in blessing and all pray together.

Bridget Mary: We are grateful for your Spirit at our Eucharistic Table and for this bread and wine which reminds us of our call to be prophets for the body of Christ.

Mary Theresa: On the night before he died, Jesus gathered for supper with the people closest to him. Like the least of household servants, he washed their feet, so that they would re-member him. (*prayer from Jay Murname*)

All lift their plates and pray the following:

Bridget Mary: When he returned to his place at the table, he lifted the bread, spoke the blessing, broke the bread and offered it to them saying:

Take and eat, this is my very self.

(*pause*)

All lift their cups and pray the following:

Mary Theresa: Then he took the cup of the covenant, spoke the grace, and offered it to them saying:

Take and drink.

Whenever you remember me like this,

I am among you.

(pause)

Pat F. and All: Christ dies in us in our fears, Christ rises in us in our courage, Christ comes again and again each day in our loving, prophetic actions.

Bob F: We remember prophets and saints in every age illuminating the darkness of doubt with faith, courage and wisdom: Miriam and Moses, Jeremiah and Deborah, Mary, Mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdala, Martin Luther King Jr. and Dorothy Day, and all who work for justice every day.

Pat F: We join as one family in loving communion with all with all that is, all that was, and all that will be. Through Christ, in Christ, with Christ loving through us, the Holy Spirit heals and liberates the world.

The Great Amen. Linda Lee Miller

https://youtu.be/0sDDgwZlijc?si=sxoaV_RjinjGC9AB&t=3

COMMUNION RITE

Bridget Mary: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: Holy One, you are within, around and among us.

We celebrate your many names.

Your wisdom come; your will be done,

unfolding from the depths within us.

Each day you give us all that we need.

You remind us of our limits and we let go.

You support us in our power, and we act with courage.

For you are the dwelling place within us,

the empowerment around us,

and the celebration among us,

now and forever, Amen.

Adapted by Miriam Therese Winter

Sign of Peace:

Mary Theresa: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All: Namaste (3 times)

Bridget Mary: Breaking of the Bread:

All:

O God of Courage, we are called to live the Gospel of peace and justice. We will live justly.

O God of Compassion, we are called to be Your presence in the world. We will love tenderly.

O God of Truth, we are called to speak truth to power. We will walk with integrity in your presence.

(Presiders hold up bread and wine)

Mary Theresa: This is the bread of life and the cup of blessing. Through it we are nourished and we nourish each other. All are welcome to the Feast.

Communion Song: Who Will Speak if we don't

<https://youtu.be/kZ70EZqICys?si=JiDOJnudx87NHuzl>

Prayer after communion:

Bridget Mary: Holy One, we are willing to do everything Jesus did, to re-create the living presence of a love that does justice, of a compassion that heals and liberates, of a joy that generates hope, of a light that illumines people and confronts the darkness of every injustice and inequity.

We trust you to continue to share with us your own spirit, the spirit that animated Jesus, for it is through his life and teaching, all honor and glory is yours, forever and ever.
Amen.

All: Amen.

Thanksgivings, Introductions, and Announcements:

Blessing:

Mary Theresa: Let us raise our hands and pray together our blessing:

All: May we continue to be the face of God to each other. May we call each other to extravagant generosity! May we walk with an awareness of our Call as prophets, knowing we are not alone. May we, like Jesus, be a shining light and a blessing in our time!

May you be blessed in the name of the Holy One, our Creator, Jesus our Brother, and the Holy Spirit, Wisdom Sophia, Amen

Amen.

Closing Song: Go Make a Difference

<https://youtu.be/WDjQEoltGzQ?si=nbXn5b5QV111tSRx>

This Liturgy was created by Mary Theresa Streck, Juanita Cordero and Bridget Mary Meehan.

If you want to add a prayer intention to our MMOJ Community Prayer book, please send an email to Joan Meehan. jmeehan515@aol.com

If you want to invite someone to attend our liturgy, please refer them our website at <https://marymotherofjesus.net>

Please support our community, send your check to:

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